The Ministry has also been actively pursuing a policy of purchase/ construction of properties abroad with a view to curtail expenditure on hiring of accommodation for Chancery and residences of India-based officers and staff members.

Indians in Pakistani jails

3664. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian nationals—civilian and defence personnel, separately, according to Government's estimates, at present languishing in Pakistani jails; and

(b) the steps taken during the last two years to seek their release and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) As per available information, 883 Indian civilian prisoners, 245 fishermen and 54 missing Indian defence personnel are believed currently to be in Pakistani Jails.

(b) Government have consistently taken up the issue of release and repatriation of Indian prisoners with the Government of Pakistan through displomatic channels. As a resuslt, 39 civilian prisoners and 683 Indian fishermen were got released from Pakistan since January, 2001 to 17th April, 2003.

Social Security Cards

3665. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to issue National Social Security Cards to the EPF account holders; and

(b) if so, the purpose of this scheme and the amount involved as an expenditure on this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation proposes to issue a unique National Social Security Number (NSSN) to the members brought under the purview of the Employees' Provident Fund

Scheme, 1952. This unique number will help Employees' Provident Fund Organisation achieve its goal of enhancing coverage of members, address the increasing labour market mobility, improved record keeping, improved service turnaround time and establish 'Anytime—Anywhere' service capacity. The cost involved is yet to be quantified.

Job opportunities during Tenth Plan

†3666. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the number of new employment aspirants every year during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimates of the creation of new employment opportunities every year during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Special Group headed by Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission has estmated that the new entrants to the labour force will be around seven million per year during each year of the Tenth Five Year Plan Period.

(c) The Special Group has targeted creation of 50 million (10 million per year) job opportunities during the 10th Plan period. Out of these, nearly 30 million have to come through normal growth in the economy and nearly 20 million from specific employment generation programmes.

Reconstitution of the Central Board of Trustees

3667. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Board of Trustees of the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.